

Top-shot McDonald on target again

LUTON FINISHED their promotion season with another victory, but the pitch—two-thirds of which was unplayable from the start—robbed two train loads of Luton fans of the memorable finale they had hoped to see from their promotion-winning heroes.

But the mud was so deep and clinging that subtlety was cut of the question and it was difficult to keep the ball just rolling.

Luton, however, succeeded in showing us a cameo of their talents and the result was right, though Rochdale came back well after Reg Jenkins had given them new heart with his 29th goal for the club.

His strength and purpose illustrated that only the big fellows could hope to compete against the conditions and Rochdale simply didn't have enough of this type.

The first goal owed nothing to basic skills. Malcolm McDonald, the Third Division's top scorer, prodded a leg across the mud to

by RICHARD BOTT

Rochdale	- - - -	1
Luton	- - - - -	2

turn the ball against Chris Harker and as it spun away Vivian Busby forced it over the line.

There was a good deal more merit in Luton's second goal, after 54min., when Mike Keen sent McDonald on a lone road to goal and he sent a controlled shot wide of Harker.

A clever lob by Joe Ashworth gave Jenkins the chance to score for Rochdale with a diving header eight minutes later.

With young David Cross leading the line with great promise and resource Rochdale might have got an equaliser but instead collected a black mark when Colin Parry was booked near the end.